

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete all prior lists of claims in the application and insert the following list of claims:

1-32. (CANCELED)

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A charged nonwoven filtration media ~~which comprises one or more~~ comprising:

a plurality of sheets formed from blended nonwoven fibers, wherein the sheets are multilayered and needle punched to bond them together; and

a charge treatment applied to the ~~surface of said~~ sheets, wherein the charge treatment completely saturates the sheets.

34. (CANCELED)

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 33 wherein said fibers are comprised of polypropylene, or polyester in a blend to achieve enhanced thermal processing capabilities.

36. (CANCELED)

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 33 wherein the charge treatment comprises a charged cationic or anionic resin.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 37 wherein the cationic resin is polyamide-epichlorohydrin.

39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 33 wherein the fabric density, air permeability, and mean pore size can be controlled through heated calendaring and densification of the bonded sheets, including smooth, textured, or patterned calendar rolls.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 33 wherein the bonded sheets can be formed into flat or curved filter sheets, pleated filters, filter cartridges, filter bags, and filter tubes.

41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A charged multiple component, nonwoven filtration media which comprises

a blend of micro-denier/fine-denier blend fibers and fine-denier fibers having an average fiber diameter of from 5 to 30 microns, one or more a plurality of sheets formed from the blend of fibers, wherein said sheets being are multilayered in a graded density structure and needle punched to bond said sheets together,

and a charge treatment applied to the ~~surface of said~~ sheets, wherein the charge treatment completely saturates the sheets.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 41 wherein fibers of 10-90% microdenier or fine fibers selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester, bicomponent fibers or blends are combined with fibers of 90-10% fine or coarse fibers selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester, bicomponent fibers or blends, are used in the blend to achieve enhanced thermal processing capabilities.

43. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The media of claim 41 wherein the charge treatment applied is a cationic or anionic resin.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 43 wherein the applied cationic resin is polyamide-epichlorohydrin.

45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 41 wherein the fabric density, air permeability, and mean pore size can be controlled through heated calendaring and densification of the bonded sheets, including smooth, textured, or patterned calendar rolls.

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 41 wherein the bonded sheets can be formed into flat or curved filter sheets, pleated filters, filter cartridges, filter bags, and filter tubes.

47. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A charged multiple component, nonwoven filtration media which comprises

a blend of micro-denier/fine-denier blend fibers and coarse-denier fibers having an average fiber diameter of from 5 to 30 microns, said blend being formed into ~~one or more~~ a plurality of sheets, said sheets being multilayered in a graded density structure and needle punched to bond said sheets together, and

a charge treatment applied to the ~~surface of said~~ sheets, wherein the charge treatment completely saturates the sheets.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 47 wherein 10-90% micro-denier or fine fibers selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester, bicomponent fibers or blends are combined with fibers of 90- 10% fine or coarse fibers selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester, bicomponent fibers or blends, are used in a blend to achieve enhanced thermal processing capabilities.

49. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The media of claim 47 wherein the charge treatment applied is a cationic or anionic resin.

50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 49 wherein the applied cationic resin is polyamide-epichlorohydrin.

51. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 47 wherein the fabric density, air permeability, and mean pore size can be controlled through heated calendaring and densification of the bonded sheets, including smooth, textured, or patterned calendar rolls.

52. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 47 wherein the bonded sheets can be formed into flat or curved filter sheets, pleated filters, filter cartridges, filter bags, and filter tubes.

53. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A charged multiple component, nonwoven filtration media which comprises

a blend of micro-denier fibers and fine-denier fibers having an average fiber diameter of from 5 to 30 microns, said blend being formed into ~~one or more~~ a plurality sheets, said sheets being multilayered in a graded density structure and needle punched to bond said sheets together, and

a charge treatment applied to the ~~surface of said~~ sheets, wherein the charge treatment completely saturates the sheets.

54. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 53 wherein 10-90% microdenier or fine fibers selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester, bicomponent fibers or blends are combined with fibers of 90-10% fine or coarse fibers selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester, bicomponent fibers or blends, are used in a blend to achieve enhanced thermal processing capabilities.

55. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The media of claim 53 wherein the charge treatment applied is a cationic or anionic resin.

56. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 55 wherein the applied cationic resin is polyamide-epichlorohydrin.

57. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 53 wherein the fabric density, air permeability, and mean pore size can be controlled through heated calendaring and densification of the bonded sheets, including smooth, textured, or patterned calendar rolls.

58. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 53 wherein the bonded sheets can be formed into flat or curved filter sheets, pleated filters, filter cartridges, filter bags, and filter tubes.

59. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A charged multiple component, nonwoven filtration media which comprises

a blend of micro-denier fibers and coarse-denier fibers **having an average fiber diameter of from 5 to 30 microns**, said blend being formed into ~~one or more~~ **a plurality of** sheets, said sheets being multilayered in a graded density structure and needle punched to bond said sheets together, and

a charge treatment applied to the ~~surface of said~~ sheets, **wherein the charge treatment completely saturates the sheets**.

60. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 59 wherein fiber of 10-90% microdenier or fine fibers selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester, bicomponent fibers or blends are combined with fibers of 90- 10% fine or coarse fibers selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester, bicomponent fibers or blends, are used in a blend to achieve enhanced thermal processing capabilities.

61. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 59 wherein the charge applied is a cationic or anionic resin.

62. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 61 wherein the applied cationic resin is polyamide-epichlorohydrin.

63. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 59 wherein the fabric density, air permeability, and mean pore size can be controlled through heated calendaring and densification of the bonded sheets, including smooth, textured, or patterned calendar rolls.

64. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The media of claim 59 wherein the bonded sheets can be formed into flat or curved filter sheets, pleated filters, filter cartridges, filter bags, and filter tubes.

65. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A charged nonwoven filtration media which comprises

a plurality of sheets formed from blended nonwoven fibers, wherein fibers of 10-90% microdenier or fine fibers, **and having an average fiber diameter of from 5 to 30 microns,** selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester, bicomponent fibers or blends are combined with fibers of 90-10% fine or coarse fibers selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyester, bicomponent fibers or blends, are used in the blend wherein the plurality of said sheets are multilayered and needle punched to bond them together, and

a charge treatment applied to said sheets, **wherein the charge treatment completely saturates the sheets.**